

health of the people to promote sanitation and public health among the masses, and our work was greatly handicapped by their lack of coöperation.

During the entire campaign we were greatly aided by the newspapers, especially the Burlington papers. Weekly items regarding the success of our work were published, and the people were urged by the press to visit the dispensaries and take advantage of the opportunity offered by the State and county.

THE PROPOSITION OF A WHOLE-TIME HEALTH OFFICER.

It is impossible for the State to reach every citizen and instruct him. That is the duty and privilege of the county. The greatest factor in public health work is the instruction given to the school children and to the public at large—the common people who are not reached by the newspapers and health bulletins. The only way to accomplish this is to employ a capable and experienced physician for his whole time to look after the health matters of the county. It is not necessary to mention the numerous duties he would have to perform. He would be interested in not only looking after the health of the county, but the greater part of his work would be constructive—teaching the laws of health to the masses and showing them the importance of observing them. The proposition of the whole-time health officer was revolutionized by the act of the last Legislature requiring a registration of the vital statistics. Then, too, this officer's work is made more effective since the State Board of Health has established a Bureau of County Health. A physician is in charge of this work, and it is his sole duty to coöperate with the whole-time health officers, keeping them in touch with similar work being done in other counties, and advising them regarding local conditions.

The need of a whole-time health officer for Alamance is so apparent that Dr. P. W. Covington, chief of the Bureau of County Health, was invited to visit the county and coöperate with us in laying the proposition before the officials. On September 8 there was a joint meeting of the boards of education, health, and county commissioners. Dr. Covington explained the duties of the whole-time health officer in a very interesting manner. Talks in favor of the movement were made by several of the leading citizens of the county. The board of education and the board of health were unanimous in recommending that the county commissioners make provision for employing a physician for his entire time to look after the health matters of the county.

There is only space to give in detail one fact shown by Dr. Covington. Statistics prove that, aside from the educational and constructive features of his work, a whole-time county health officer, getting the minimum results, would in his first year of work reduce the death rate 1 in every 1,000 of population. This would mean that in Alamance County the health officer would save 30 lives during the first year of his work. The United States Government places a value of \$885 on every immigrant that lands on our shores. This means that every poor, illiterate foreigner, who in many instances cannot speak our language, is worth to the United States \$885 in the increased taxes which his work will turn to the Government treasury. The salary for a whole-time county health officer is \$2,500 per year, an increase of taxes of